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Smokeyjumper Obituary: Funk, Ray N. (Missoula 1945)

National Smokeyjumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Funk, Ray N. (Missoula 1945)

Ray died December 27, 2008. He grew up on a family farm near Hillsboro, Kansas, where grew up working on a threshing crew where the "horsepower" was provided by a team of mules. Ray finished grade school in Hillsboro and was active in track, basketball and football.

Ray graduated from Bethel College (Mennonite) where he lettered in and played football for four years. He was a member of the CPS-103 smokejumper at Missoula during the 1946 season making 14 jumps that season. Ray then did a tour on one of the "cattle boats" headed to Poland after the war.

In 1946 Ray and his wife work with the Mennonite Church in Paraguay for two years. He was involved in "Gambles," a bowling center for 30 years and hosted many tours to countries of Mennonite historical significance.

Ray served on the Hillsboro Board of Zoning and Planning Commission for many years.

(end of excerpt)